

City of Newport Beach - Building Department

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BUILDING CODE POLICY

Effective Date	Subject	Policy No.
September 1, 1999	Determination of Seismic Coefficients, C_a and C_v , in Liquifiable Soils	UBC 1636.2

The 1997 UBC requires a geotechnical investigation and dynamic site response analysis of a building site that has S_F (liquifiable) soil. One aspect of that study is the determination of the seismic coefficients C_a and C_v , which are necessary for the lateral design of the building (see UBC Tables 16-Q and 16-R). The actual method of arriving at C_a and C_v values for S_F soil is not clearly understood by the geotechnical community. SEAOC Seismology Committee is developing a policy statement that an appropriate and conservative alternative to the code requirement would be to use worst-case values by considering liquifiable soils as S_D for the determination of C_a and S_E for determining C_v .

The City of Newport Beach Building Department concurs with SEAOC and instituted the following policy:

For determining the values of C_a and C_v within areas prone to seismically induced liquefaction, the S_D value may be used to determine C_a , and the S_E value may be used to determine C_v per tables 16-Q and 16-R of the 1997 UBC.

Jay Elbetta, Building Director